

The outstanding Office Action includes an objection to Figure 1 and a rejection of Claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over Motoyama (U.S. Patent No. 5,887,216) in view of Rohatgi et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,625,693, Rohatgi).

Turning first to the objection to Figure 1 that is maintained based upon the oversimplification that Figure 1 shows two providers connected to the internet, it is noted that the description of Figure 1 at page 17, line 15, through page 18, line 9, in the specification makes it clear that this figure represents a schematic view "of a constitution of a preferred embodiment of the invention." This schematic view of the preferred embodiment includes terminals 1-1 through 1-3 that are shown in more detail in Figure 2, and not simply providers 3-1 and 3-2 connected to the internet 4 as asserted in the outstanding Office Action. Clearly, the representation of terminals 1-1 through 1-3 in a broad manner in Figure 1 and more specifically in Figure 2 does not mean that the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office can require the overall schematic view of Figure 1 to be admitted to be "prior art". Accordingly, this objection is traversed.

Before considering the outstanding prior art rejection, it is noted that the present invention is concerned with methods and apparatus for using an encrypted electronic mail based remote reservation control for an external video recording device.

To whatever extent Motoyama teaches remote control of office devices, as noted on page 3 of the outstanding Office Action, this teaching is that it is to assess problems, log service history, reprogram, download new software, change operating parameters of devices, or take devices off line, to bring new devices on line and combining operations. None of this has any bearing upon the limitation in each of the independent claims requiring the control of a remote reservation function of an external video recording device. Moreover, none of these

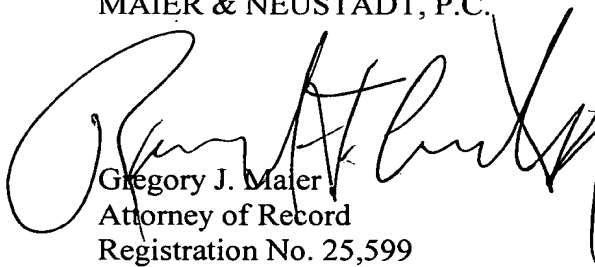
disclosed functions indicate any manner of controlling how an external video recording device will operate after that external video recording device is activated.

Similarly, Rohatgi does not teach or suggest such control involving a remote reservation function of an external video recording device. Accordingly, even if the teachings of Rohatgi and Motoyama were to be combined, the result would not be the subject matter claimed any more than it would if these references are viewed individually.

As no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, it is believed that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599
Raymond F. Cardillo, Jr.
Registration No. 40,440



22850

(703) 413-3000
Fax No.: (703) 413-2220
GJM/EHK/RFC/kst

I:\atty\RFC\203577us-am.wpd

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Serial No: 09/059,765

Amend. Filed on: 07/26/01

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claim 10.

--1. (Twice Amended) A receiving apparatus, comprising:

receiving means for receiving an electronic mail transmitted through a network;

first extracting means for extracting encrypted certification information inserted in said electronic mail received by said receiving means;

second extracting means for extracting a control command inserted in said electronic mail received by said receiving means for controlling a [predetermined electric] remote reservation function of an external video recording device, wherein said control command is selected by a user of said [predetermined electric] external video recording device and indicates a manner in which said [predetermined electric] external video recording device will operate after said [predetermined electric] external video recording device is activated;

decrypting means for decrypting said certification information extracted by said first extracting means;

certifying means for certifying, by referencing the certification information decrypted by said decrypting means, whether a sender of said electronic mail is an authorized user; and

storing means for storing, if said sender of said electronic mail has been certified by said certifying means to be an [authentic] authorized user, said control command extracted by said second extracting means.

5. (Twice Amended) A receiving method, comprising:

a receiving step of receiving an electronic mail transmitted through a network;

a first extracting step of extracting an encrypted certification information inserted in said electronic mail received in said receiving step;

a second extracting step of extracting a control command inserted in said electronic mail received in said receiving step for controlling a [predetermined electric] remote reservation function of an external video recording device, wherein said control command is selected by a user of said [predetermined electric] external video recording device and indicates a manner in which said [predetermined electric] external video recording device will operate after said [predetermined electric] external video recording device is activated;

a decrypting step of decrypting said certification information extracted in said first extracting step;

a certifying step of certifying, by referencing the certification information decrypted in said decrypting step, whether a sender of said electronic mail is an authorized user; and

a storing step of storing, if said sender of said electronic mail has been certified in said certifying step to be an authorized user, said control command extracted in said second extracting step.

6. (Twice Amended) A transmitting apparatus, comprising:

electronic mail inputting means for inputting an electronic mail;

encrypting means for encrypting predetermined information;

first adding means for adding as certification information said predetermined information encrypted by said encrypting means to said electronic mail inputted through said electronic mail inputting means;

second adding means for adding a control command for controlling a [predetermined electric] remote reservation function of an external video recording device to said electronic

mail inputted through said electronic mail inputting means, wherein said control command is selected by a user of said [predetermined electric] external video recording device and indicates a manner in which said [predetermined electric] external video recording device will operate after said [predetermined electric] external video recording device is activated; and

transmitting means for transmitting through a network said electronic mail with said certification information added by said first adding means and said control command added by said second adding means.

7. (Twice Amended) A transmitting method, comprising:

an electronic mail inputting step of inputting an electronic mail;

a first adding step of adding certification information generated by encrypting predetermined information to said electronic mail inputted in said electronic mail inputting step;

a second adding step of adding a control command for controlling a [predetermined electric] remote reservation function of an external video recording device to said electronic mail inputted in said electronic mail inputting step, wherein said control command is selected by a user of [said predetermined electric] the external video recording device and indicates a manner in which [said predetermined electric] the external video recording device will operate after [said predetermined electric] the external video recording device is activated; and

a transmitting step of transmitting through a network said electronic mail with said certification information added in said first adding step and said control command added in said second adding step.

8. (Twice Amended) A transmitting/receiving apparatus, a transmitting side thereof comprising:

electronic mail inputting means for inputting an electronic mail;

encrypting means for encrypting predetermined information;

first adding means for adding, as certification information, information encrypted by said encrypting means to said electronic mail inputted by said electronic inputting means;

second adding means for adding a control command for controlling a [predetermined electric] remote reservation function of an external video recording device to said electronic mail inputted by said electronic mail inputting means, wherein said control command is selected by a user of [said predetermined electric] the external video recording device and indicates a manner in which [said predetermined electric] the external video recording device will operate after [said predetermined electric] the external video recording device is activated; and

transmitting means for transmitting said electronic mail with said certification information added by said first adding means and said control command added by said second adding means; and

a receiving side of said transmitting/receiving apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving an electronic mail transmitted through a network

first extracting means for extracting said certification information inserted in said electronic mail received by said receiving means;

second extracting means for extracting said control command inserted in said electronic mail received by said receiving means;

decrypting means for decrypting said certification information extracted by said first extracting means;

certifying means for certifying, by referencing said certification information decrypted by said decrypting means, whether a sender of said electronic mail is an authorized user; and

storing means for storing, if said sender of said electronic mail has been certified by said certifying means to be an authorized user, said control command extracted by said second extracting means.

9. (Twice Amended) A transmitting/receiving method, a transmitting side thereof comprising:

- an electronic mail inputting step of inputting an electronic mail;
- an encrypting step of encrypting predetermined information;
- a first adding step of adding, as certification information, information encrypted in said encrypting step to said electronic mail inputted in said electronic inputting step;
- a second adding step of adding a control command for controlling a [predetermined electric] remote reservation function of an external video recording device to said electronic mail inputted in said electronic mail inputting step, wherein said control command is selected by a user of [said predetermined electric] the external video recording device and indicates a manner in which [said predetermined electric] the external video recording device will operate after [said predetermined electric] the external video recording device is activated;
- and a transmitting step of transmitting said electronic mail with said certification information added in said first adding step and said control command added in said second adding step;
- a receiving side of said transmitting/receiving method comprising:
 - a receiving step of receiving an electronic mail transmitted through a network

a first extracting step of extracting said certification information inserted in said electronic mail received in said receiving step;

a second extracting step of extracting said control command inserted in said electronic mail received in said receiving step;

a decrypting step of decrypting said certification information extracted in said first extracting step;

a certifying step of certifying, by referencing said certification information decrypted in said decrypting step, whether a sender of said electronic mail is an authorized user; and

a storing step of storing, if said sender of said electronic mail has been certified in said certifying step to be an authorized user, said control command extracted in said second extracting step.

11. (Amended) A terminal, comprising:

a modem for receiving electronic mail through a network;

a memory; and

a central processing unit for extracting encrypted certification information and a control command from said electronic mail for controlling a remote reservation function of an external video recording device received by said modem, for decrypting said certification information, for determining from the decrypted certification information whether a sender of said electronic mail is an authorized user and for transmitting said control command to said memory if said sender is an authorized user, wherein

said control command is selected by a user of [said predetermined electric] the external video recording device and indicates a manner in which [said predetermined electric] the external video recording device will operate after [said predetermined electric] the external video recording device is activated.

12. (Amended) A terminal, comprising:

an input block;

a display device;

a graphical user interface displayed on said display device and responsive to instructions from said input block to add encrypted certification information and a control command for controlling a remote reservation function of an external video recording device to electronic mail, wherein said control command is selected by a user of [said predetermined electric] the external video recording device and indicates a manner in which [said predetermined electric] the external video recording device will operate after [said predetermined electric] the external video recording device is activated; and

a modem for transmitting said electronic mail through a network to said predetermined electric device.--